

Serial No. 09/873,454
Art Unit No. 2665

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph found on page 1, lines ³⁻⁶~~1-4~~ as follows:

A.M.
7/26/06

Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to switched Ethernet networks, and more particularly to provision of Quality of Service (QoS) mechanisms in these networks. Particular embodiments of the invention provide methods for managing data communications in such networks to support guaranteed QoS, and to Ethernet switches and network systems for implementing these methods.

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Amend the paragraph found on page 1, lines ⁷⁻¹⁶~~5-14~~ as follows:

A.M.
7/26/06

Background of the Invention

Ethernet is the predominant network technology in the local area network (LAN) market, driven by its relatively low cost in comparison with other competing technologies. Although technologies such as ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) have been proposed as the network technology for support of multimedia to desktop, the large installed base of 10Mbps Ethernet networks, the rapid proliferation of 10/100 Mbps Ethernet (Fast Ethernet) and the emerging Gigabit Ethernet technologies suggest that Ethernet will be the underlying technology for supporting real-time, continuous media services to the desktop. With increasing interest in IP (Internet Protocol) telephony services, first by the information technology sector and now by telecommunications companies, demand for commercial products supporting continuous media to the desktop is to be expected.